



BOROUGH OF GRAVESEND.

ANNUAL REPORT

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

including the Report of the

CHIEF SANITARY INSPECTOR

for the year

1944.

.....

Public Health Department,
3, Woodville Terrace,
Gravesend.

July, 1945.

Mr. Mayor, Alderman Morris, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to submit for your consideration the report on the health and sanitary circumstances of the Borough for the year ending December 31st. 1944.

I am able to report that the general health of the people appeared to remain good and there was no epidemic of illness or occurrence of an adverse nature to which I am obliged to draw attention.

The statistical returns from the Registrar General were received on July 6th. 1945, and from these the various Rates have been calculated. The population to mid-year 1944 was estimated at 35,080, and on this figure the Birth Rate for the Borough is 20.6 per 1,000. This compares with a similar rate for England and Wales of 17.6.

Deaths from all causes give a slightly higher rate of 12.4 as against 11.6 per 1,000 of the population for the whole Country. I would draw your attention to the Infantile Mortality Rate in Gravesend of 35.8 per 1,000 registered live births compared with a rate of 46.0 for the England and Wales.

I am now able to refer to the number of casualties sustained during the war as the result of enemy air attack and with the reality of our vulnerability the loss of 46 persons might be considered not an unduly heavy one. Altogether, some 320 persons received injury of which only 64 were of a severe nature and were admitted to hospital.

With such a small staff the burden of organising the Casualty Service on the outbreak of war was indeed a difficult one. I would specially refer to the valuable services of Mr. Harry Fletcher, the Chief Ambulance Officer, in which capacity and in a most efficient manner conducted this branch of the Service and thereby relieved me of a large share of responsibility.

As is not generally known, the slaughtering of animals for this area of Kent has, since the war, been carried out in Gravesend under the Ministry of Food. My Chief Sanitary Inspector, Mr. J. E. Baker, with his Assistant Inspectors, have met this unprecedented volume of meat inspection under most exacting circumstances involving nightly work over long periods during the blackout.

The Members of the Ladies' Voluntary Association have continued to fulfil a very important social service to the mothers attending the Welfare Centres. By their consistent duties in connection with the sale of foods and various other functions the Council may be well pleased with this organisation and the efficient co-ordination which is manifest at all times.

I should like to express my thanks to the Chairman (Alderman Morris) and the Members of the Health Committee for their interest and kind consideration given to the various reports submitted to them during the year and also my appreciation of the work of the whole of the Public Health Staff.

I am, Mr. Mayor, Alderman Morris, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

D. Desmond.

Temporary Medical Officer of Health.

1.

HEALTH, MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE COMMITTEE.

The Mayor (Councillor H. Davidson, J.P.).

Chairman: Alderman G.E. Morris.

Vice-Chairman: Alderman H.A. Hodge.

Councillor Pratt. Councillor Simmonds.

" Robson. " Ricketts

" Cole, J.P. " Lines.

" Toulson. " Stephenson.

Councillor Harding.

Co-opted Members:-

Mrs. Croft, J.P. Mrs. Gray.

Miss Berrey. Mrs. Life.

PUBLIC HEALTH STAFF.

Medical Officer of Health.

Herbert S. Davies, M.B., B.S., D.P.H. (Lond.),
M.R.C.S., L.D.S. (On Active Service).

Assistant Medical Officer of Health.

Daniel Desmond, M.B., B.Ch., D.P.H. (Cork).

Dental Surgeon.

R.A. Tran, I.D.S., R.C.S. (Eng.).

Chief Sanitary Inspector.

+ J.E. Baker, M.S.I.A., C.R.S.I.

District Sanitary Inspectors.

+ R. Brooks, C.R.S.I.
+ F.H. Millican, C.R.S.I.
+ L.G. Owen, C.R.S.I. (On Active Service).

Health Visitors.

Mrs. C.M. Desmond, S.R.N., S.C.M.
Miss M. Skipper, S.R.N., S.C.M. (Appointed July 1944)
Miss M. Mullally, S.R.N., S.C.M. (Appointed June 1944)
Miss M.E. Morris, S.R.N., S.C.M. (Resigned July 1944)

Clerks.

S.V. Tonge
A.H. Baker
Mrs. W.M. Sandford
Miss E.K. Gregory
Mrs. G.H. Steward
Mrs. G.H. Ferguson
Miss M.B. Allerston

+ Also holds Meat and Food Inspectors' Certificate.

Section "A".Statistics and Social Conditions.

Area	4,619 acres
Registrar-General's estimate of the Population ...	35,080
Number of separate inhabited houses (estimated) ...	12,300
Rateable value	£338,241
Sum represented by a Penny Rate	£1,353

Registered Live Births.

	Male	Female	Total	Rate per 1,000 population
Legitimate	358	330	688	19.6
Illegitimate	22	15	37	1.0
Total live births	380	345	725	20.6

Still Births.

	Male	Female	Total
Legitimate	10	6	16
Illegitimate	1	1	2
Total still births	11	7	18

Registered Deaths.

	Male	Female	Total	Rate per 1,000 population
Total	223	212	435	12.4

Deaths of Infants under One Year.

	<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>	<u>Total</u>
Legitimate	14	11	25
Illegitimate	1	-	1
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
Total infant deaths	15	11	26
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>

The Infantile Mortality Rate per

1,000 Registered Live Births	35.8
Legitimate Infants per 1,000 Registered Births	36.3
Illegitimate Infants per 1,000 Registered Births	2.7

CARE OF PREMATURE INFANTS.

In accordance with the Circular 20/44 of the Ministry of Health, the measures recommended for the special care of premature infants under 5½ lbs. in weight at birth have been adopted as far as possible. No special heated type of vehicle has been obtained for the conveyance of such infants to a hospital nursery but cots, bedding and other necessary equipment have been made available and the request for the information regarding prematurity and weight has been included in the notification of birth form.

No application was made for the use of these facilities during the year.

Causes of Death of Infants under 1 year of Age.

Cause of Death	Total	Under 1 week		Under 1 mth		1 and under 3 mths		3 and under 6 mths		6 and under 9 mths		9 and under 12 mths	
		M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
Prenaturity	8	2	2	1		1		2					
Bronchitis	5	2	1	2									
Congenital Malformation	2	1		1									
Pneumonia	6			1	1	1		2	1				
Marasmus	1					1							
Atelectasis	2		1										
Other Defined Causes	2		1	1									
Totals:	26	7	4	5	5	1	3	4	1				

CERTIFIED CAUSES OF DEATH.

	Male	Female	Total
1 Typhoid and Paratyphoid Fever	-	-	-
2 Cerebro Spinal Fever	-	-	-
3 Scarlet Fever	-	-	-
4 Whooping Cough	-	-	-
5 Diphtheria	-	-	-
6 Tuberculosis Respiratory	11	4	15
7 Tuberculosis Non-Respiratory	2	-	2
8 Syphilitic diseases	1	-	1
9 Influenza	1	-	1
10 Measles	-	1	1
11 Acute Poliomyelitis	-	-	-
12 Acute Encephalitis Infantile	-	-	-
13 Cancer-Oesophagus and Uterus	10	4	14
14 Cancer-Stomach and Duodenum	9	6	15
15 Cancer-Breast	-	5	5
16 Cancer-All other organs	19	19	38
17 Diabetes	2	5	7
18 Intracranial vascular lesions	22	23	45
19 Heart Disease	49	41	90
20 Other circulatory diseases	6	6	12
21 Bronchitis	11	9	20
22 Pneumonia	12	12	24
23 Other Respiratory diseases	3	1	4
24 Ulcer of Stomach or Duodenum	3	1	4
25 Diarrhoea - under 2 years	-	-	-
26 Appendicitis	1	3	4
27 Other digestive diseases	3	4	7
28 Nephritis	2	4	6
29 Puerperal and post abortion sepsis	-	1	1
30 Other maternal causes	-	-	-
31 Premature Births	3	5	8
32 Congenital Malformations	6	3	9
33 Suicide	1	-	1
34 Road Traffic Accidents	1	3	4
35 Other violent causes	21	13	34
36 All other causes	24	39	63
Total - All Causes	223	212	435

DEATHS FROM SPECIFIC CAUSES.

	<u>Number</u>	<u>Rate per 1000 population.</u>
Cancer	72	2.05
Measles	1	.02
Whooping Cough	-	-
Diarrhoea (under 2 years)	-	-
Tuberculosis	17	.4
Influenza	1	.02

BIRTH AND DEATH RATES FOR LAST 5 YEARS.

<u>Year</u>	<u>Birth Rate</u>	<u>Death Rate</u>
1940	17.46	14.23
1941	16.51	13.78
1942	20.58	12.60
1943	20.7	12.3
1944	20.6	12.4

COMPARATIVE BIRTH AND DEATH RATES.

<u>Per 1000 Civilian Population</u>	<u>Gravesend</u>	<u>England and Wales</u>	<u>143 Smaller Towns of 25,000 to 50,000 Population.</u>
Birth Rate (Live Births)	20.6	17.6	20.9
Deaths from All Causes	12.4	11.6	12.4
Deaths under 1 year of age (Per 1000 Live Births)	35.8	46.0	44.0

DYSENTERY (SONNE).

There was a recurrence of Sonne Dysentery during the month of May when 20 cases were notified. Eight of the cases were removed to the Dartford Infectious Diseases Hospital and all recovered, in most cases, after a period of 16 days in the Hospital. Fourteen were children in attendance at the War Time Nurseries, none of whom were severely ill.

The total number of cases notified throughout the year was 22 and was milder in form and of shorter duration than was the outbreak which occurred during 1943, when 72 cases were notified.

SECTION "B"GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES.STAFF.

As previously reported Dr. H.S. Davies, the Medical Officer of Health, was called for service with the Royal Army Medical Corps in January 1944. Dr. Desmond, the Assistant Medical Officer, was appointed Temporary Medical Officer of Health and an arrangement was entered into between the City of Rochester and the Borough of Chatham for two Medical Officers to assist with the Routine work in Gravesend on a part time basis equivalent to two and a half days per week. This arrangement, as a purely temporary measure, has worked satisfactorily although occasions have occurred when neither Assistant Medical Officers have been available for particular additional duties.

One District Sanitary Inspector has been engaged on Active Service since the outbreak of war and his position has not been filled.

The difficulty experienced in filling the vacancies in the Health Visiting Staff in 1943 has now been met by the appointment of two Health Visitors during the year.

LABORATORY FACILITIES.

The County Public Health Laboratory, Maidstone, has rendered very efficient service to the Gravesend Public Health Department in so far as material or specimens submitted in connection with suspected infection and the analysis of water samples, and the closest co-operation has been given.

The number of specimens submitted for bacteriological examination during the year is as follows:--

	<u>Positive.</u>	<u>Negative.</u>	<u>Total.</u>
Diphtheria	4	15	19
Tuberculosis	20	-	20
Sonne Dysentery Groups	49	522	571
Food Poisoning	3	6	9
Food Samples	-	38	38
Water Samples	-	55	55

NOTE: Negative results in the case of Tuberculosis are not available to the Department.

AMBULANCE FACILITIES.

The Borough maintains one ambulance exclusively for cases of infectious disease.

The Civil Defence Service have a fleet of ten efficient ambulances in addition to one St. John and two Police Ambulances.

The Police Ambulances have been serviced by the Civil Defence during the war period but it is understood that with the cessation of hostilities this service will not revert back to Police administration.

This will necessitate the inauguration of a new Ambulance Service under the Public Health Department.

HOME NURSING SERVICE.

The Kent County Nursing Association which is affiliated to the Queen's Nursing Institute is employing two nurses and is rendering excellent service in the Borough. The membership is over 600 and during the year 10,240 visits were paid by these nurses.

Two nurses are engaged by the Gravesend Home Nursing Service and this voluntary organisation is also doing valuable work.

TREATMENT CENTRES.

The local Venereal Diseases Clinic is under the administration of the Kent County Council and is open for treatment on six days per week. An abstract of the report by the surgeon in charge will be found later in this Report.

The Kent County Tuberculosis Clinic is held at the Gravesend and North Kent Hospital on Wednesdays of each week. An abridged report of the work carried out at this Clinic will be found elsewhere in this Report.

MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE.

There are three centres in the Borough. A Medical Officer attends each centre for one session a week and the Health Visitors are in attendance for advise and routine weighing of babies etc., on the following afternoons:-

Windmill Street	Mondays and Tuesdays
Whitehill	Thursdays
Denton (Gordon Mission)	Wednesdays

The attendances at these centres for the year were:-

Individual children under 1 year of age	586
Individual children between 1 and 5 years of age	549
Total number of attendances of all children under 5 ...	2736

NOTIFICATION OF BIRTHS.

Births notified after adjustments of transferred notifications:-

Live Births ... 669. Still Births ... 28. Total ... 697.

	<u>Live Births.</u>	<u>Still Births.</u>
Gravesend	314	11
Milton	352	10
Denton	186	7
Total:	852	28

Number transferred "IN" 54

Number transferred "OUT" 227

Number born in Nursing Homes or Hospital 315

CHILD LIFE PROTECTION

(Public Health Act: 1936, Sections 206 to 220).

Seven persons were registered who were receiving children under 9 years for reward. Seven children were involved and in all instances when supervision visits were made by the Health Visitor they were found to be clean and properly cared for.

Eighteen visits were made for the purpose of supervision during the year and on one occasion attention was drawn to the insufficiency of bedclothes.

One child is being cared for without reward as the mother has deserted the infant and her whereabouts are unknown.

GYNABCOLOGICAL CLINIC.

The Surgeon in charge of this Clinic reports that the work continued without interruption throughout 1944.

Ten monthly sessions were held and 41 new cases were registered. Of this number 28 attended for Birth Control and 13 for Minor Gynaecological troubles. Thirteen cases were sent along by the Tuberculosis Officer for the Area and 15 were referred by their own private medical attendants. A larger number of attendances were made and the old patients continue to attend from time to time for re-examination.

On the whole I am satisfied that the work is well conducted and is patronised by persons who are justly qualified to obtain this important service.

ANTE-NATAL CLINICS.

Three Clinics have operated during the year, one at the Windmill Street Clinic, one at Whitehill Clinic and at "Ellerslie", Milton Road, which serves the Denton and Chalk Area. Sessions are held once per week at each Clinic.

The number of ante-natal patients who attended was 137 making 259 attendances. With the co-operation of the County Midwives attendances have improved and it is hoped that these Clinics will become more popular when the facilities are more widely appreciated.

MATERNAL DEATHS.

No deaths were registered in the Borough of women having died in consequence of child-birth.

The Registrar General returned the death of a resident which occurred elsewhere and was certified after post mortem and inquest as "An embolism due to instrumental abortion." A Report by the Coroner was submitted to the Ministry of Health.

ABNORMAL MATERNITY.

Fifteen maternity patients were admitted to the Gravesend and North Kent Hospital suffering from abnormalities of pregnancy.

The Council has an undertaking with the Gravesend and North Kent Hospital to bear financial responsibility for any such case admitted to the wards in circumstances of emergency.

PUERPERAL SEPSIS

Five cases of Puerperal Pyrexia were notified during the year. Four occurred in the Gravesend and North Kent Hospital and one was attended privately.

One woman was a resident of Northfleet.

All the patients made a complete recovery.

EVACUATION OF EXPECTANT MOTHERS.

By arrangement with the L.C.C. thirteen expectant mothers were evacuated to the Emergency Maternity Homes in the Tunbridge Wells Area. This scheme has proved most advantageous under war conditions and might have been taken fuller advantage of had there not been the difficulty of arranging for the accommodation of children while the mothers were away.

MIDWIFERY SERVICE.

The Kent County Council is the supervising Authority under the Midwives Act and five midwives are employed in the Gravesend area as salaried officers of the Kent County Council.

The midwives attended 315 births as midwives and 82 as maternity nurses in conjunction with medical practitioners.

HOME HELP SERVICE.

The services of three women are retained as Home Helps by the Council. They were engaged for 32 confinement cases during the year for the normal period of 14 days in each case. These women are paid a retaining fee of 10/- per week and £2. 10. 0. per week when engaged. An amount is then assessed as recoverable from the person engaging them according to the family circumstances.

NURSING HOMES.

There are two registered Nursing Homes in the Borough, one for maternity and one for medical patients. The accommodation provided in these Homes is as follows:-

<u>Number of Beds.</u>		
<u>Maternity.</u>	<u>Medical.</u>	<u>Total.</u>
12	10	22

During the year the Medical Officer of Health visited these homes for supervision purposes and on all occasions the homes appeared to be clean and well conducted although at both these homes the staff was considered inadequate.

MEASLES.

Seventy-nine children under 5 years of age were notified as suffering from measles. This compares with 234 for the year previous.

The disease did not occur in epidemic form and was in most cases of a mild type.

One death occurred of a child aged 12 months, giving a death rate of .02 per 1000 population.

The Health Visitors visited 21 cases, in their homes, but none were admitted to Hospital.

WHOOPING COUGH

Only six cases of whooping cough were notified of children under five years of age.

There were, of course, many more that were not brought to the notice of the Health Department. The disease was not prevalent and no cases were removed to Hospital.

47 Children were given prophylaxis by the Public Health Officers.

OPHTHALMIA NEONATORUM.

One case was notified and received treatment as an out-patient at the Gravesend and North Kent Hospital. The treatment was effected without any impairment of the vision.

Two other cases of discharge from eyes in newly born infants were reported and were visited by the Health Visitors but the diagnosis was not confirmed by bacteriological examination.

DENTAL TREATMENT.

The Dental Officer, R.A. Tran Esq., L.D.S., R.C.S., reports that his work for the year in connection with the treatment of expectant and nursing mothers shows a slight reduction in the numbers referred to him for treatment, while the infants of pre-school age indicate an increase in all forms of treatment undertaken.

Sixty-one mothers were treated as new cases and gas was administered on 70 occasions.

The extractions numbered 690 and miscellaneous operations 212. Dentures were provided under the assisted treatment scheme to 66 mothers, upper and lower dentures being counted as two.

DENTAL TREATMENT.

Number of Mothers inspected 58
 Number of Mothers referred for treatment 57

Treatment.

Fillings	12		
Other Operations	212	Extractions	693
Dentures Supplied	66	Gas Cases	70

Number of Mothers treated as new cases ...	Expectant	34
	Nursing	27
	Total	61

Total Attendance for Treatment 312

Additional Attendances 114

Cash received £86. 16. 6.

Number of pre-school children inspected 39
 Number of pre-school children referred for treatment 32

Treatment.

Fillings	19	Extractions	75
Other Operations	2	Gas Cases	28

Number of pre-school children treated 33

Total attendance for treatment 42

Additional attendances 40

Cases receiving free treatment 2

Cash received £3. 2. 0.

ORTHOPAEDIC TREATMENT.

By arrangement with the Gravesend and North Kent Hospital, children under the age of five years are examined by Mr. Batchelor, F.R.C.S., the Specialist Officer attending that Hospital every fortnight.

Eleven children were referred to the Orthopaedic Specialist for advice and the necessary treatment undertaken. One child was admitted to St. Vincent's Hospital, Pinner, and one recommended for admission to Oak Bank Open Air School.

Splints were provided in two instances and remedial treatment recommended in five cases, one child having X-Ray. No special form of treatment was considered necessary in three children but they were referred for subsequent examination.

Altogether 21 attendances were made for treatment or supervision.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

The total number of notified diseases was 301. Excluding Measles and Whooping Cough the number was 137, giving an infectious disease rate of 3.9 per 1,000 of the population. This compares with 3.3 per 1,000 for the previous year

Notifications of Scarlet Fever, Dysentery and Measles were fewer with also a marked reduction in the number of cases of Tuberculosis.

The death of one infant was registered from Measles.

The Scarlet Fever cases of which 12 were removed to Hospital were of mild type and no secondary complications occurred. The average number of days in Hospital was 25.

Some Dysentery again appeared in May but only 21 positive cases were notified as compared with 72 during the year 1943. Mostly infants between the age of one and five years were affected and it was only necessary to remove seven for treatment in hospital.

ISOLATION OF INFECTIOUS PATIENTS.

The Borough Infectious Diseases Hospital was requisitioned by the Government in 1940. Alternative arrangements were entered into with the Dartford Joint Hospital Committee for persons suffering from infectious diseases to be admitted to Bow Arrow Hospital, Dartford, for which the Council agree to pay £4. 10. 0. per week per patient. Forty patients from the Borough were admitted during the year which involved a total cost of £550. 4. 4. for treatment and maintenance.

This arrangement does not include the isolation of Small-pox patients and in this connection the present position is, as a temporary measure, cases will be removed to the Chapel Hospital of the Tonbridge Joint Hospital Board until such time as the Dislingbury Hospital (near Tunbridge Wells) is made available.

DISEASE	Total	Under One year	One to 5 years	5 to 15 years	15 to 25 years	25 to 35 years	35 to 45 years	45 to 55 years	55 to 65 years	65 years and over	Number removed to hospital
Diphtheria	3	-	-	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	3
Typhoid	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1
Scarlet Fever	36	-	6	21	4	1	3	1	-	-	12
Erysipelas	13	-	-	1	-	4	-	2	4	2	4
Puerperal Pyrexia	6	-	-	-	6	-	-	-	-	-	4
Pneumonia	4	1	-	4	-	-	-	1	-	-	-
Dysentery (Sonno)	21	-	13	1	4	2	-	1	-	-	7
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Peripneumonia Neonatorum	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Measles	164	2	77	23	2	-	-	-	-	-	-
Whooping Cough	9	-	6	2	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
Pulmonary Tuberculosis	34	-	-	2	16	3	1	1	6	-	18
Non-pulmonary Tuberculosis	3	-	1	4	1	-	2	-	-	-	4
TOTAL:	301	5	103	119	34	15	6	6	11	2	53

TUBERCULOSIS.

The primary notifications received during the year were 42 compared with 58 for the year 1943.

	<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>	<u>Total</u>
Pulmonary	20	14	34
Non-Pulmonary	3	5	8

The source from which the notifications were received were:-

Tuberculosis Officer	16
Private Medical Practitioners	12
Institutions and Hospitals	10
Service Establishments .	4

Eighteen patients were admitted to Sanatoria suffering from pulmonary and four to Hospitals for treatment of non-pulmonary diseases.

The occupations and ages of the persons affected are recorded as follows:-

	<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>
General Labourer	15, 39, 63,	
Housewife		24, 30, 30, 33, 33, 44,
Ex-Service	20, 21, 23, 25, 26, 34,	
Engineer	18, 64,	
Munition Worker		17, 18, 19, 21,
Post Office Worker	51, 57,	
Sign Writer	31,	
Domestic		38,
Pilot	57,	
Nurse		23,
Fitter	20,	
Clerk	57,	19,
Greengrocer	22,	
Teacher		50,
Merchant Navy	32,	
Cinema Operator	18,	
Shop Assistant		17,
Scholar	5, 9, 16	8, 9, 12,
Infant		2,

The names of twenty persons were removed from the Register during the year for the following reasons:-

Death	14
Left the District	5
Recovered	1

The total number of persons residing within the Borough as shown by the Tuberculosis Register at the end of the year 1944 was:-

	<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>	<u>Total</u>
Pulmonary	142	92	234
Non-Pulmonary	22	26	48
	-----	-----	-----
Total:	164	118	282
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The number of primary notifications received during the past five years:-

<u>1940</u>	<u>1941</u>	<u>1942</u>	<u>1943</u>	<u>1944</u>
33	56	55	53	42

Deaths registered during the year from Tuberculosis numbered 17. 21 Pulmonary and 2 other forms.

This gives a death rate of .48 per 1,000 of the population and compares with 27 deaths and a rate of .7 per 1,000 for the previous year.

VENEREAL DISEASE.Gravesend K.C.C. Clinic.

I am indebted to Mr. Hamish Nicol, F.R.C.S., the Surgeon in charge of the Cobham Street Clinic, for kindly sending me the following interesting figures which are abstracts from his Report on the treatment carried out at this Clinic during the year 1944.

<u>New Patients - Gravesend.</u>	<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>	<u>Total.</u>
Syphilis	6	6	12
Soft Sore	-	-	-
Gonorrhoea	6	12	18
Non-Venereal	25	23	48

Total number of new patients from all areas served ... 243
 Number of attendances of Gravesend patients 1285
 Total number of attendances - all areas 3449

Discharges (all districts).Discharged cured:

Syphilis	7	7	14
Soft Sore	-	-	-
Gonorrhoea	38	12	50
Non-Venereal	87	66	153

Defaulted before final test of cure:

Syphilis	1	-	1
Gonorrhoea	-	1	1

Defaulted before completion of treatment:

Syphilis	4	2	6
Gonorrhoea	-	3	3

New Patients.

Married	49%
Single or Widowers	51%

Contracted from:

Prostitutes ..	7%
Amateurs	76%
Consorts	13%
Direct exposure to infection	4%

Contracted at:

Gravesend	8%
Rest of Kent	10%
Essex	7%
London	12%
Elsewhere in U.K.	31%
Abroad	32%

History of previous V.D. infection	11%
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Occupations:

Seamen	48%
Motor Drivers	4%
Labourers	6%
Service Ratings (referred from Service Medical Authority for continuance of treatment)	19%
Others	23%

DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION.

During the year 1944, 279 children were immunised against diphtheria. The scheme has been energetically pressed but the results do not reflect the efforts made. Apathy on the part of the parents is very difficult to overcome, and what is more disappointing is the number of children who attend for the first injection but fail to attend for the second.

It is satisfactory to note that the figure of 70 per cent of the children between the age of 12 months and 15 years are protected.

This figure is obtained after an adjustment by deduction of the number attaining the age of 15 during the year and the addition of the infants becoming 12 months of age.

The total number of children who were immunised up to 31st December 1944 was as follows:-

	<u>Under 5 years</u>	<u>5 to 15 years</u>	<u>Total</u>
Public Health Services	1628	4310	5938
General Practitioners	459	659	1118
Privately (as far as known)	26	31	57
Total:	<u>2113</u>	<u>5000</u>	<u>7113</u>

Estimate of the child population shown to have been immunised up to December 1944.

	<u>Under 5 years</u>	<u>5 to 15 years</u>	<u>Total</u>
Estimated number of children in the Borough	3101	5845	8946
Percentage of child population immunised	48.7	82.2	70.6

TREATMENT OF SCABIES.

Ablution arrangements were made for the treatment of persons suffering from Scabies at the St. James' First Aid Post and as a temporary measure this has proved quite satisfactory. The supervision and treatment has been conducted by the members of the staff of the First Aid Posts.

In most cases two applications of Benzyl Benzoate have been sufficient to effect a complete cure and bedding, clothing etc., has been removed for disinfection by the Health Department.

Three hundred and ninety four patients, including two hundred and twenty-one of them children, were treated.

There were eleven cases where re-infection occurred.

Although the number of patients treated was practically the same as for the last year there appear indications that this serious complaint is being got under control.

As reported last year there were fewer cases at the commencement of the year but numbers increased to an average of fifteen per week.

Arrangements are being made for a new Cleansing Station which will be opened during the early part of the year.

PUBLIC WATER SUPPLY.

Gravesend is served by two public water companies and the supply is always abundant and of a high standard of purity.

The liability to plumbosolvent action is remote on account of the permanent hardness of the water. Bacteriological and chemical examinations have been made of the raw water and of the domestic supply. Fifty-five samples were submitted for analysis and the results were uniformly satisfactory.

Some twenty houses are supplied from common standpipes. A Reservoir is in use in the Borough but a considerable proportion of the area is supplied by direct pumping.

A Report of the Public Analyst on a sample submitted for chemical analysis will be found later in the Report of the Chief Sanitary Inspector.

VERMINOUSCONDITIONS.

The question of infestation by head lice and general uncleanness is not, fortunately, as serious now as it has been in recent years. The Health Visitors, who have always given particular attention to the cleanliness of the mothers with whom they come in contact, rarely have difficulty in securing co-operation of these people when necessary.

There are a number of mothers who are repeatedly visited and in spite of the careful advice given it is impossible to maintain results without constant supervision.

Ten infants were dealt with at the Cleansing Centre for similar conditions during the year.

WAR TIME NURSERIES.

The following nurseries are open in Gravesend and provision is made for the reception of 108 infants under the age of 5 years. The Nurseries are well situated in the Borough and within easy distance of the different works and on bus routes. The accommodation and the average attendances are as follows:

	Date of opening	No. of places provided	Average No. on the register.	Daily average attendance.
"Dancoholme" Pelham Road.	Jan: 1942	30	43	30
"Glendillon" Old Road East,	April 1942	40	44	22
"The Nest" Rochester Rd.	Jan: 1943	38	32	18

"Glendillon" has accommodation for 12 children on a 24 hour basis but the demand for night time care has not averaged throughout the year to more than two infants.

A considerable amount of sickness has resulted in children being absent from the nurseries for sometimes long periods with a consequent reduction in the daily averages. Colds, whooping cough, measles, food poisoning and some dysentery were among the complaints, and bronchial and nasal catarrh during the early part of the year were particularly prevalent.

It is evident that the children with regular habits and general supervision which the infants received when placed in the care of the Nurseries has very beneficial results and this is borne out by the Mistresses of Infant schools to which the children are admitted at the age of 5 years.

The staff at each nursery consists of a Matron, Deputy Matron, Warden, Nursery Nurse and five Probationer Nurses.

The Nurseries are affiliated to the National Society of Children's Nurseries and are recognised as training centres for the examination of the Diploma of Nursery Nurses. Six nurses have been successful in obtaining this certificate.

REPORT OF THE CHIEF SANITARY INSPECTOR

FOR THE YEAR

1944.

SUMMARY OF INSPECTIONS AND REVISITS.

Dwelling houses inspected	...	...	643
Re-inspections	...	...	1294
Visits to other premises:			
Slaughterhouses	...	...	862
Butchers' shops (for inspection of meat)	...	...	32
Dairies and milkshops	...	...	110
Cowsheds	...	...	38
Provision shops	...	...	228
Greengrocers	...	...	53
Bakehouses	...	...	73
Dining rooms	...	...	72
Fishmongers	...	...	24
Butchers' shops	...	...	162
Other food-preparing premises	...	...	122
Fish-frying shops	...	...	14
Gut-scraping factory	...	...	3
Outworkers	...	...	2
Shops Acts	...	...	3
Factories (with power)	...	...	42
Factories (without power)	...	...	9
Piggeries	...	...	13
Urinals	...	...	14
Stables	...	...	3
Public Conveniences	...	...	1008
Schools	...	...	7
Places of entertainment	...	...	3
Rats and mice	...	...	3326
Infectious disease	...	...	56
Miscellaneous	...	...	520
Total visits of all kinds	...	...	8736

NOTICES SERVED AND COMPLIED WITH.

In respect of dwelling houses:			
Informal notices	...	...	409
Statutory notice	...	...	1
Notices complied with	...	...	355
Miscellaneous:			
Informal notices	...	...	342
Notices complied with	...	...	326

NUISANCES AND DEFECTS REMEDIED.

Accumulations removed ...	...	13
Animals in unfit state ...	...	2
Ashbins provided ...	...	172
Ceilings repaired and/or cleansed ...	...	42
Cesspools filled in ...	...	5
Chimney stacks - repaired ...	...	1
Coppers - new provided ...	...	3
- repaired ...	...	2
Dampness - roofs repaired ...	...	74
- guttering repaired or renewed ...	...	23
- hopper heads provided ...	...	15
- R.W.P.'s repaired or renewed ...	...	12
- External walls repaired ...	...	14
- External walls repointed ...	...	18
- External walls rendered ...	...	6
Doors and door sills repaired or renewed ...	...	5
Dirty houses cleansed by occupiers ...	...	3
Drainage - drains repaired ...	...	1
- drains relaid ...	...	2
- drains partly relaid ...	...	5
- drains unstopped ...	...	46
- inspection chamber provided ...	...	1
- inspection chamber covers provided ...	...	2
- soil and vent pipes removed ...	...	1
- soil and vent pipes repaired ...	...	3
Floors repaired or relaid ...	...	22
Light and ventilation provided ...	...	1
Paving relaid or repaired ...	...	14
Sinks - new provided ...	...	5
Sink or bath waste pipes renewed or repaired ...	...	17
Stair handrails provided ...	...	9
Stoves renewed or repaired ...	...	16
Urinals cleansed ...	...	4
Verminous premises disinfested ...	...	51
Walls (internal) repaired and/or repapered, etc. ...	...	98
Washhouses repaired ...	...	11
Water supply - water pipes, etc. repaired ...	...	4
- internal supply provided ...	...	1
Water closets - number dealt with ...	...	42
- new constructed ...	...	1
- repaired and/or cleansed ...	...	15
- new pans ...	...	11
- pans cleansed ...	...	4
- flushing cisterns repaired ...	...	15
- new seats provided ...	...	4
Windows - renewed or repaired ...	...	16
- sash cords provided ...	...	87
Other matters ...	...	3

HOUSING.

Total number of houses inspected for housing defects
(under Public Health or Housing Acts) 643
Number of inspections made for that purpose 1937

Number of dwelling houses found not to be in all
respects reasonably fit for human habitation 409

Remedy of defects without service of formal Notices:
Number of defective dwelling houses rendered
fit in consequence of informal action by the
Local Authority or their officers 354

Action under statutory powers (Public Health Act):
Number of dwelling houses in respect of which
notices were served requiring defects to be
remedied 1
Number of dwelling houses in respect of which
such defects were remedied 1

ERADICATION OF BED BUGS.

The work of disinfection of Council houses is
carried out by the Local Authority. Infested rooms and
furniture are sprayed with insecticide, and two or more
sprayings, as found necessary, are applied, with
intervals of from three to seven days.

Where necessary, belongings of tenants are sprayed
before removal to Council houses and again on moving
into the houses.

Premises belonging to private owners are also
disinfested on request, and the cost of the work is
charged to the owners concerned.

Particulars of action taken during 1944:

	<u>Council</u> <u>houses.</u>	<u>Other</u> <u>houses.</u>	<u>Total.</u>
Number of houses found to be infested.....	6	51	57
Number of houses disinfested ..	6	51	57

FACTORIES ACT, 1937.

	<u>Number of</u> <u>inspections</u>	<u>Number of</u> <u>defects</u>	<u>Number</u> <u>remedied</u>
Bakehouses	73	3	3
Factories (with power)	42	9	3
Factories (without power)	9	1	0
	<u>124</u>	<u>13</u>	<u>6</u>

SHOPS ACTS, 1912 - 1934.

Shops have been kept under observation during the year, and no infringements were found.

CESSPOOL AND PAIL SYSTEM.

5478 tons of sewage were removed from 414 cesspools as against 4,482 tons from 399 cesspools the previous year.

There are approximately 30 pails in use in the Borough. Seven of these are emptied twice weekly by the Public Health Department, and the remainder are dealt with by the owners or occupiers.

Elsan closets at Wardens' Posts were also emptied by this Department.

HOUSE AND TRADE REFUSE REMOVAL AND DISPOSAL.

Six Shelvoke & Drewry freighters and two Thornycroft vehicles are employed in the collection of house and trade refuse and salvage.

Disposal is effected by means of controlled tipping. Tipping at the Gravesend Co-operative Sports Ground in Old Road East was completed on 7th March, 1944, and surface levelling is now proceeding. Tipping on that site was commenced on 1st July, 1930, and 127,332 tons of refuse was tipped during the period the site was in use.

The present tip is on land at Denton Marshes, recently purchased by the Corporation.

During 1944, 8228 tons of refuse were collected and tipped, as against 7457 tons the previous year.

SALVAGE.

Salvaged materials collected and sold during the year were as follows:-

<u>Materials</u>	<u>Weight.</u>			<u>Value.</u>		
	Tons.	Cwts.	Lbs.	£.	s.	d.
Waste paper	233.	16.	31.	1,517.	13.	7.
Ferrous metals.....	24.	11.	56.	36.	17.	3.
Tins.....	73.	18.	84.	110.	18.	1.
Non-ferrous metals ..		7.	41.	7.	15.	7.
Textiles	4.	2.	7.	57.	19.	11.
Bottles and jars	30.	17.	84.	119.	18.	11.
Food waste	475.	13.	28.	773.	11.	6.
Bones	9.	4.	98.	43.	16.	7.
String		13.	15.	3.	5.	8.
Rubber	2.	4.	56.	2.	4.	6.
Miscellaneous			70.		5.	7.
	855.	10.	10.	£2,674.	7.	2.

DISINFECTION OF PREMISES.

52 premises were disinfected and 74 batches of clothing and bedding were removed to the Isolation Hospital and disinfected and returned or, in some cases, destroyed.

PUBLIC CONVENIENCES AND SCHOOLS.

The public conveniences and sanitary arrangements of schools under the control of the Education Committee have been cleansed and flushed daily by the Health Department during the past year.

The conveniences attached to licensed premises have been kept under supervision, and 14 inspections were made. 1 urinal was cleansed at the request of this Department.

The conveniences at 14 licensed premises were cleansed by the Health Department in consideration of the fact that they remain open for use of the general public.

RATS AND MICE DESTRUCTION.

A Rodent Officer was appointed by the Council on 10th January, 1944. All infested premises notified to the Public Health Department were dealt with without charge to the occupiers. The following is a summary of the work carried out during the year:-

Number of infested premises brought forward from 1943	...	...	...	22
Premises reported as infested during 1944				321
Premises cleared	...	...	...	307
Total number of visits	...	...	...	3326
Premises still under observation at end of year	...	...	...	34
Estimated number of rats killed			...	3050

WATER SUPPLY.

Samples taken and submitted for bacteriological examination were as follows:-

	<u>Total</u>	<u>Satis- factory</u>	<u>Unsatis- factory</u>
Gravesend & Milton Water			
Co.'s supply.....	12	12	-
Higham & Hundred of Hoo			
Co.'s supply	12	12	-
Gravesend Swimming Pool	6	6	-
Emergency drinking water			
supplies	25	25	-
	<u>55</u>	<u>55</u>	<u>-</u>

2 samples - one of the Gravesend supply and one of the Higham and Hundred of Hoo supply were taken and submitted for chemical analysis. The reports were as follows:-

<u>Description or number of sample.</u>	<u>No.1 "Grave- send & Mil- ton Water Co. Supply"</u>	<u>No.2 "Higham & Hundred of Hoo Water Co. Supply".</u>
Appearance	Clear	Clear
Colour	Green-blue	Green-blue
Smell	Normal	Normal.
Chlorine in Chlorides	1.19	1.02
Phosphoric Acid in Phosphates	None	None
Nitrogen in Nitrates	0.39	0.19
Nitrogen in Nitrites	None	None
Ammonia	0.0011	None
Albuminoid Ammonia	0.0006	0.0006
Oxygen absorbed in 15 min.	Trace only	Trace only
Oxygen absorbed in 4 hours	0.004	0.006
Hardness before boiling (total)	20.1	14.6
Hardness after boiling (permanent)	2.8	3.6
Total solid matter	24.78	19.04
Microscopical examination of deposit	(slight and unimportant)	slight and unimportant
Metallic impregnation (copper, lead, zinc) ...	None	None

Remarks: The above results are very satisfactory in both cases, and indicate water organically pure and free from sewage percolation. The Microscopical Examination is also satisfactory.

N.B. - All numerical results expressed in grains per gallon.

MILK SUPPLY.

There are two dairy farms in the Borough, and 38 visits of inspection were made. 110 visits of inspection to milkshops and dairies were made.

A Dairyman's appeal against the decision of the Council to cancel his registration as a retail purveyor of milk, in respect of which the hearing was adjourned in 1943 to enable the Dairyman to execute the necessary works, was again before the Court in 1944. The Council agreed that the necessary improvements to the Dairyman's premises and plant had been carried out, and did not further oppose the appeal.

The magistrates granted the application for an Order reversing the original decision of the Council, but ordered the Dairyman to pay 30 guineas costs and 12s.6d. court fees.

The same Dairyman was also twice proceeded against during the year for delivering milk in dirty bottles. He was convicted and fined £10 with £5.5s.0d. costs in each case.

Bacteriological examination of milk:

The following table shows the number of samples taken, and the results obtained on bacteriological examination:-

<u>Sample.</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Satis- factory.</u>	<u>Unsatis- factory.</u>	Result when examined for	
				<u>Tubercle Bacilli.</u>	<u>Pos. Neg.</u>
Pasteurised	27	23	4	0	18
Ordinary	42	33	9	0	16
	<u>69</u>	<u>56</u>	<u>13</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>34</u>

Milk (Special Designations) Order, 1936:

The following licences were issued during the year under the above Order:-

"Tuberculin Tested" Milk.	Bottling Licences	3
	Dealers' supplementary licence	1
"Pasteurised" Milk	Pasteurisers' licences	2
	Dealers' licences	8
	Dealers' supplementary licence	1

SLAUGHTERHOUSES.

There are two licensed slaughterhouses in the Borough, both being under the control of the Ministry of Food. Visits of inspection made during the year numbered 862.

The provisions of the Slaughter of Animals Act, 1933, relating to humane slaughtering of animals have

Slaughterhouses (cont'd.)

been complied with. The number of slaughtermen holding licences at the end of the year was 15.

PUBLIC HEALTH (MEAT) REGULATIONS, 1924.

The following table shows the number of carcasses inspected and the result of the inspections:-

MEAT INSPECTION - CARCASSES INSPECTED AND CONDEMNED.

	Cattle (excluding cows)	Cows	Calves	Sheep & Lambs	Pigs
Number known to have been killed	1719	1417	822	5198	869
Number inspected	1719	1417	822	4290	869
<u>All diseases except Tuberculosis:</u>					
Whole carcasses condemned	5	7	-	10	25
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	133	142	-	61	27
Percentage of number inspected affected with disease other than Tuberculosis	8.02	10.51	-	1.64	5.98
<u>Tuberculosis only:</u>					
Whole carcasses condemned	9	36	-	-	-
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	213	615	-	-	11
Percentage of number inspected affected with Tuberculosis	12.91	45.94	-	-	1.26

FOOD SURRENDERED AND CONDEMNED - 1944 -
- DISEASES -

[illegible]

DISHES

Carcasses and
offal
Heads
Lungs
Livers
Mesenteries
Spleens
Plucks
Chitterlings
Pork

FOOD SURRENDERED AND CONDEMNED - 1944 -
DISEASES -

SHEEP		TOTALS	
Carcases and offal		11	
Heads	2	2	
Lungs	1	1	
Livers	1	19	
Plucks	7	12	
Mutton	16 lbs	328 lbs.	
	290 lbs		
Abcesses			
Bruised			
Cirrhosis	1		
Cystic	1		
Dropsical and emaciated	5		
Flukes	14		
Moulds	2		
Suffocation	1		
Unsound	3		
	22 lbs		

UN SOUND FOOD.

The following foodstuffs were also condemned as unfit for human consumption:-

	lbs.		lbs.
Luncheon Meat	407	Cereals	167
Galantine	13	Dried fruits	87
Tongue	50	Fruit	210
Brisket	18	Vegetables	205
Geese (12)	100	Dried peas	42
Sausage meat	31	Jam	95
Bacon	160	Cake & pudding mixture	50
Cheese	92	Sweets	131
Butter	66	Pickles	58
Lard	48	Paste	4
Margarine	12	Tinned milk	1101
Tea	24	" soup	86
Sugar	18	" rabbit	4
Dried egg	6	" fish	250
Biscuits	16	" beans	205
Flour	18459	" fruit	32
Bread improver	280	" steak	42
Meal	140	" vegetables ..	81
Bread	192	" fish cakes ..	718
Rye cones	140	" chocolate sauce ..	5
Pastries	686	Eggs (309)	40
Horseflesh	3766		

F I S H.

Whelks	56 lbs.
Crabs	105 "
Fish fillets	168 "
Kippers	210 "
Cockles	112 "
Winkles	168 "

Approximate Weights.

	Tons.	Cwts.	Qrs.	lbs.
Beef and organs	34	17	0	9
Pork and organs	2	18	2	10
Mutton and organs		8	1	24
Fish		7	1	7
Miscellaneous	12	13	0	1
	51	4	1	23

FOOD & DRUGS ACT, 1938.

109 samples were taken under the Food & Drugs Act, 1938, and submitted to the Public Analyst. Particulars of the samples and a summary of the results is shown in the following table:-

<u>Samples</u>	<u>Number of</u>		<u>Result of Analyses</u>	
	<u>Formal</u>	<u>Informal</u>	<u>Genuine</u>	<u>Adulterated</u>
Ammoniated Tincture of Quinine		1		1
Anti-gas ointment No. 2		3	3	
Apple rings		1	1	
Baking powder		1		1
Batter flour	2		2	
Beef & vegetable extract	1		1	
Bronchial mixture		1	1	
Butter	3		3	
Cake mixture	1		1	
Camphorated oil ...		3	3	
Castor oil		2	2	
Cheese	2		2	
Cocoa	1		1	
Cod liver oil		1	1	
Coffee	2		2	
Curry powder		1	1	
"Florida" Delight Dessert	1		1	
"Frutella" Table Dessert		1	1	
Glycerine, distilled		1	1	
Glycerine of Thymol		1	1	
Golden Syrup	1		1	
Halibut liver oil		1	1	
Jam	1		1	
Junket powder		1	1	
Lard	3		3	
Lemon curd	1			1
Linseed oil		1	1	
Luncheon sausage ..	1		1	
Macaroni	1		1	
Margarine	2		2	
Marmalade	1		1	
Milk	49	1	50	
Mixed spice		1	1	
Mustard	1		1	
C/fwd.	74	22	93	3

Food & Drugs Act, 1938, cont'd.

<u>Samples</u>	<u>Number of</u>		<u>Result of Analyses</u>	
	<u>Formal</u>	<u>Informal</u>	<u>Genuine</u>	<u>Adulterated</u>
B/fwd. ...	74	22	93	3
Mustard condiment ...		1	1	
Orange emulsified essence		1	1	
Pearl barley	1		1	
Salad dressing		1	1	
Sausages, pork	2		2	
Semolina	2		2	
Steak, minced	1		1	
Sugar	1		1	
Tea	1		1	
Tincture of iodine ..		1		1
Zinc castor oil cream		1	1	
	82	27	105	4

Particulars of adulterated samples:

Lemon Curd, No. 16: Slightly below limit for soluble solids. No action taken.

Tincture of Iodine, No. 48: Contained excess of iodine and potassium iodide. Letter of caution was sent to vendor.

Ammoniated Tincture of Quinine, No. 54: Contained under the minimum of ammonia and over the maximum of quinine. Letter of caution was sent to the vendor.

Baking Powder, No. 102: Contained 6.19 per cent. available carbon di-oxide instead of not less than 8 per cent. and 3.32 per cent. residual carbon di-oxide instead of not more than 1.5 per cent.

LEGAL PROCEEDINGS.

Milk & Dairies Order, 1926, Art. 21.

A dairyman was proceeded against on two occasions for delivering milk in dirty bottles. He was fined £10. with £5. 5s. 0d. costs in respect of each offence.

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